

The **Better Buildings Initiative** is a national leadership initiative calling on corporate chief executive officers, university presidents, utilities, state and local officials, and other leaders to make substantial commitments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and plants, save money, and increase competitiveness. This initiative aims for 20% savings across the commercial and industrial sectors and to catalyze revolutionary change in energy use across the United States. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expanding this initiative to engage leaders in a set of **Better Buildings Accelerators** designed to demonstrate specific innovative policies and approaches, which upon successful demonstration will accelerate investment in energy efficiency.

The **Energy Data Accelerator** is designed to demonstrate low-cost, standardized approaches for providing energy data for the purpose of whole building energy performance benchmarking. Partners in the Accelerator are utilities and local governments who want to use whole-building benchmarking for commercial buildings. Partners agree to demonstrate streamlined, best-practice approaches for building owners to access whole-building energy usage data—with a specific focus on providing building owners with aggregated energy usage information across multiple tenants.

The goals of the **Energy Data Accelerator** are to:

- ▶ Demonstrate best practice approaches to providing utility data for whole-building benchmarking.
- ▶ Develop best practice approaches for reliable and secure utility aggregation of whole-building energy data from multiple accounts to facilitate building benchmarking while protecting privacy.
- ▶ Demonstrate new tools to streamline the transfer of utility bill data to benchmarking tools consistent with local government policies and programs, including standard data formats for ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager.
- ▶ Develop recommendations for post-Accelerator next steps.

Energy Data Accelerator Partners will collaborate with DOE to demonstrate practical, effective data aggregation practices to facilitate whole building benchmarking. Accelerator Partners and DOE enter into this partnership agreement to collaborate to facilitate benchmarking, with an emphasis on multi-tenant buildings.

Local Government and Utility Partner Each Agree to:

- ▶ **Appoint** an Accelerator point of contact.
- ▶ **Engage** with local stakeholders to outline and refine best practices approaches for access to energy data in support of whole-building benchmarking, with an initial convening occurring in the first six months.
- ▶ **Work with DOE** and other Accelerator Partners to identify within 12 months, one or more approaches for whole-building data aggregation that could be piloted in their community; within 24 months, implement the pilot to make whole-building data available for at least 20% of multifamily and/or commercial buildings in the local community.
- ▶ **Share results and lessons learned** with DOE and other Accelerator Partners as approaches are implemented, such as materials developed for building owners in the local community on how to access energy data from their utility.

U.S. Department of Energy Agrees to:

- ▶ **Appoint** an Accelerator point of contact.
- ▶ **Provide technical assistance** associated with SEE Action guides such as “A Regulator’s Guide to Data Access for Commercial Building Energy Performance Benchmarking.”
- ▶ **Provide analytical support** to develop reasonable thresholds for data aggregation.
- ▶ **Develop** additional technical tools and/or assistance as necessary to meet the goals of the Accelerator, subject to resources.
- ▶ **Provide recognition** to Accelerator Partners for their leadership in addressing these issues.

Agreement

My organization is committed to the goals of this Better Buildings Accelerator and pledges to lead in the aggregation of whole-building energy data to facilitate benchmarking.

Local Government Representative

Date

Utility Representative

Date

Contact Information

Local Government: _____ Address: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Utility: _____ Address: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

General Terms

- ▶ All parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by any party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty.
- ▶ Partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative constitutes Federal Government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to the initiative.
- ▶ Partner understands its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative does not constitute Federal Government endorsement of Partner.
- ▶ Partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Better Buildings Initiative are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the Federal Government. Partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
- ▶ The Better Buildings Initiative will honor all requests to keep the Partner's information and data confidential.